

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1.-23. (Canceled)
24. (Currently Amended) A viscous gelled treating fluid composition comprising:  
water,  
a hydrated gelling agent wherein the hydrated gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof, and  
a base,  
wherein said viscous gelled treating fluid composition is substantially devoid of a water insoluble gelling agent residue and remains substantially devoid of the water insoluble gelling agent residue while in a subterranean zone.
25. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said water is selected from the group consisting of fresh water and salt water.
26. (Canceled)
27. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said gelling agent is a galactomannan selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylguar and carboxymethylhydroxyethylguar.
28. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said gelling agent is hydroxypropylguar.
29. (Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 24 wherein said hydrated gelling agent is present in said treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 10 to about 2000 pounds of said gelling agent per 1000 gallons of said water.
32. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.
33. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said base is sodium hydroxide.

34. (Original) The composition of claim 24 wherein said base is present in said viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to raise the pH of said treating fluid to in the range of from about 10 to 13.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 24 wherein said water is present in said viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to lower the amount of said gelling agent therein to in the range of from about 10 to about 80 pounds per 1000 gallons of water and to lower the pH thereof to in the range of from about 2 to about 12.

36. (New) A method comprising:

(a) providing a viscous gelled treating fluid that comprises water, a hydrated gelling agent selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof, and a base; wherein the viscous gelled treating fluid does not form an insoluble gelling agent residue while in a subterranean zone; and

(b) introducing the viscous gelled treating fluid into the subterranean zone.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said water is selected from the group consisting of fresh water and salt water.

38. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the gelling agent is a galactomannan selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylguar and carboxymethylhydroxyethylguar.

39. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the gelling agent is hydroxypropylguar.

40. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the hydrated gelling agent is present in the water in an amount in the range of from about 10 to about 2000 pounds per 1000 gallons thereof.

41. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.

42. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the base is sodium hydroxide.

43. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the base is present in the viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to raise the pH of the treating fluid to in the range of from about 10 to 13.

44. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the water is present in the viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to lower the amount of the gelling agent therein to in the range of from about 10 to about 80 pounds per 1000 gallons of water and to lower the pH thereof to in the range of from about 2 to about 12.

45. (New) A method comprising:

(a) providing a viscous gelled treating fluid prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

(i) mixing a gelling agent selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof with water to form a viscous gelled fluid comprising a hydrated gelling agent and a water insoluble residue;

(ii) mixing a base with the viscous gelled fluid so that the water insoluble residue is at least partially dissolved; and

(iii) adding additional water to the viscous gelled fluid to form a viscous gelled treating fluid; and

(b) introducing the viscous gelled treating fluid into the subterranean zone.

46. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the gelling agent mixed with water in accordance with step (a) is dry particulate gelling agent.

47. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the gelling agent mixed with the water is in the form of a liquid gel concentrate.

48. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the water is selected from the group consisting of fresh water and salt water.

49. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the gelling agent is a galactomannan selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylguar and carboxymethylhydroxyethylguar.

50. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the gelling agent is hydroxypropylguar.

51. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.

52. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the base is sodium hydroxide.